

Remarks

Currently Claims 1-23, 25, and 32-34 are pending. Claims 27-28 and 30-31 are cancelled without prejudice, solely for the purpose of expediting grant of the currently allowed claims. Applicants respectfully maintain that the Examiner's position on the outstanding rejection is directly contrary to the Board's holding in *Ex Parte Eggenweiler et al.* Accordingly, Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed toward the subject matter of claims 27-28 and 30-31. It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendment removes all rejected claims and places the application in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment is proper under 37 CFR 1.116 and is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (919) 483-8222, to discuss this case, if desired.

Respectfully submitted,



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